

From: [Bryan, David](#)
To: [Coats, Janetta](#)
Cc: [R6HarveyInfo](#)
Subject: Hurricane Harvey CL Report - Newton/Jasper Counties
Date: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 6:34:17 PM

Jasper/Newton CL team includes:

- David Bryan
- Jeremy Ford
- Devin Pollock
- Jim Stevens

The team will be traveling back to Newton and Jasper Counties to work with local officials, Texas A&M county extension officers and local health officials to assist in recovery activities within the counties.

We spent the day at the EPA Houston Lab making phone calls and developing planning strategies for our work in the counties on Wednesday. We were able to speak with Jasper County Judge Mark Allen and Newton County Judge Paul Price regarding their flood recovery concerns. We also spoke with Brock Fry from Jasper County extension and Dr. Aaron Sumrall (Newton County Extension). We were unable to reach Danny Brackin, Jasper/Newton County Public Health District but we hope to visit with him during Wednesday trip.

- Judge Allen was concerned about infrastructure activities to rebuild roads, bridges and waterways that were damaged by the storm. He was concerned about working with the Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA and EPA regarding the proper permits and environmental assessments to bring this significantly important parts of the Jasper County infrastructure back to operational effectiveness.
- Judge Price wanted our contact information and said he would be getting back with a list of concerns that he had via email. He also had some of the same concerns regarding infrastructure.
- Dr. Sumrall asked us to provide him with the fact sheets that the Community Liaisons have been distributing throughout the flood-affected areas. We provided him with master copies of both English and Spanish-translation fact sheets by email. He specifically said that he had several venues where he can get the information out to constituents and would print them and distribute from his offices.
- Dr. Sumrall also mentioned that he had talked with one of the precinct commissioners about two houses that are blocking a waterway in his precinct. The team will be traveling to the area where the houses are located (David Bryan and Jeremy Ford are current with their 40-hour HAZWOPER training and have all the appropriate safety gear). We understand the safety rules and will review them before going to the site. We will then provide appropriate photos/coordinators to Janetta for appropriate information going up the chain.
- Commissioners Court will be meeting in Newton County on Wednesday so we believe we will receive feedback from Judge Price after they meet.

Team Concerns -

- HHW and debris collection is a serious issue but there doesn't seem to be a clear answer yet in either county. We hope to visit in Deweyville and other hard-hit southern areas of the counties during our time Wednesday and hope to have a better understanding on needs.
- We may sound like a broken record on the rural issue but our two counties are decidedly rural and some of the methods used in densely populated urban areas will be much more

difficult in the rural counties. No Disaster Recovery Centers have been opened up in the rural areas. Jasper County hosted a center in Jasper, Texas in 1996 after flooding in the area and the Jasper-Newton Emergency Operations Coordinator, Billy Ted Smith, has told us they would like to do so again.

- Frustration for the locals continues when the only agency they see in Jasper is EPA letters. Need a better federal presence and a better social service presence. SBA has met with the banks but has not set any hours to meet with local business (as of this afternoon).
- Realizing there is one PIO and LO working out of Corpus Christi, can Community Liaisons use their expertise to help 'get the word out' to local media outlets about the available information. The EOM has stated that it has always been difficult to get the information to the rural areas. There also seems to be a particularly robust number of radio stations in the area. This would be most important if there is a Disaster Recovery Center in Jasper. (Hint?)

There is still a lot of work to be done in these rural areas. Thanks for the opportunity to share.

Jeremy, Devin, Jim and David.

And, as always, please call if you want to discuss.

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